



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - February 7, 2003

- ***In the West***, cool, dry weather favors fieldwork, but most areas east of the *Cascades and Sierra Nevada* continue to suffer from a variety of drought-related problems. This morning's low temperatures remained above the freezing mark (higher than 32 degrees F) in *California's San Joaquin Valley citrus areas*, following Thursday morning's scattered frost and near-freezing temperatures.
- ***On the Plains***, a shallow snow cover is protecting winter wheat from cold weather across the *northern half of the region*, where this morning's minimum temperatures were as low as -10 degrees F. Conditions remain mostly favorable for overwintering wheat on the *southern Plains*.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers linger in the *lower Great Lakes region*, while bitterly cold conditions (lows ranging from 0 to -20 degrees F) are increasing livestock stress across the *upper Midwest*.
- ***In the South***, rain showers continue in the *southern Atlantic States* and *southern Texas*, but cool, dry weather is overspreading the remainder of the region. Recent precipitation boosted *Southern* topsoil moisture reserves, following near-record or record January dryness.

Outlook: An intensifying winter storm will track along the *East Coast* on Friday, producing moderate to heavy snow from the *Mid-Atlantic States* northward into *southern New England*. During the weekend, snow showers will accompany a surge of bitterly cold weather into the *Great Lakes and Northeastern States*, while rain showers are likely along the *Gulf Coast*. Elsewhere, dry weather will prevail across *Pacific Northwest*, while scattered showers are possible in *southern California*. Early next week, much-needed precipitation may overspread the remainder of the *Southwest*. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 12-16 calls for above-normal precipitation across the *nation's southern tier from southern California to the Delta*. Mostly dry weather is forecast across the remainder of the U.S., particularly in the *Northwest, Midwest, New England*, and *southern Florida*. Below-normal temperatures will persist from the *Great Lakes States into the Northeast*, while warm weather is forecast to overspread the *southern Rockies, southern Plains*, and *Pacific Northwest*. Near-normal temperatures are expected elsewhere.

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